

The Arts Planning Initiative

The California Alliance for Arts Education's Arts Planning Initiative provides strategic assistance, high caliber facilitation and financial support to help school districts and counties complete an arts plan.

Why an Arts Plan Matters

California's state education code requires that students receive K-12 instruction in visual arts, music, theater and dance. Yet, during the recent economic downturn, many schools were forced to cut their arts programs. Now with funding increases promised over the next seven years, many districts are working to rebuild their arts offerings.

The purpose of system-wide planning in arts education is to:

- Improve access to arts education for students through a planning process that engages leaders representing the district administration, school board, PTA, and the community.
- Identify, cultivate, and empower arts education leadership among the diverse spectrum of stakeholders
- Build partnerships and collaborations with community resources (people, facilities and funding available for arts education programs.)

Projected Outcomes of this process include:

- The policies, action plans, and budget recommendations created from this process provide a long-range plan for implementation of a sequential, standards-based curriculum in the arts.
- The project raises community awareness and develops new relationships between the district and community members.
- The collaborative planning process ensures support at school sites and in the parent community for the resulting arts plan.

The Gold Standard in Arts Planning

In 2007, in partnership with the California Department of Education, the California Alliance for Arts Education published *The Insider's Guide to Arts Education Planning*. Since then, it has been used in numerous districts and counties to create high quality plans. The third edition of the Guide, created in partnership with Arts for All Los Angeles, will be released in the Fall of 2016. It outlines a process that can be tailored for individual communities, but generally includes the following elements:

- A team of 25-30 stakeholders, including administrators, teachers, parents, local arts providers and community members

- 3 days of work by the full team, facilitated by a professional trained in the *Insider's Guide*
- The development of arts education goals for curriculum, professional development, administration, facilities, materials and community partnerships

At the end of this process, the plan is presented to and adopted by the school board so that it is legitimately embraced.

What this Initiative Offers

The California Alliance for Arts Education's Arts Planning Initiative offers an opportunity for California districts and counties to complete a planning process using the best tools available. These plans each include a set of goals tailored for the needs of the district, specific action steps to meet the goals, a series of outcomes, fiscal implications, and a timeline for implementation. Districts or counties receive:

- 3 days of facilitation provided by an experienced arts planning facilitator
- Strategic assistance from start to finish
- Written draft and final plan
- Subsidy of \$1,000 to offset the overall cost of \$3,500 for the process

Our facilitators are experts in the field who have used the *Insider's Guide* with numerous districts. **Example:** Peggy Burt has been affiliated with Arts for All since 2003, and has served as Arts for All Coach mentor, and an Arts for All planning coach for districts such as Burbank USD, Pasadena USD, Norwalk La Mirada USD and ICEF Public Schools. Peggy was the District Arts Coordinator for the Wiseburn School District and she is the co-author of the "Insider's Guide to Arts Education Planning: 3rd Edition" (due for release this fall). Her meeting facilitation utilizes guidelines for group productivity, building knowledge of effective arts programming, building consensus around common goals, and oversight of the writing of the plan. Support activities include preparation of materials, meeting with a smaller team to prepare the final revision, and presentation of the plan for Board approval.

What the Initiative Requires

To be eligible districts must secure the following:

- Commitment from district or county Superintendent
- Commitment for 3-day process from key stakeholders which includes 2-4
- Elementary and Secondary teachers (arts and other subject teachers), principals, district or county VAPA, district or county Director of Instruction or Assistant Superintendent, parents, and staff from local arts providers
- Point person at district to schedule meetings and secure location
- Balance of fees: \$2,500 (paid in advance of process)
- Coverage for teachers to attend planning days
- Commitment to complete Arts Plan within 9 months

How to Apply

Please contact Peggy Burt by email peggy@artsed411.org or visit <http://www.artsed411.org/artsplan>